



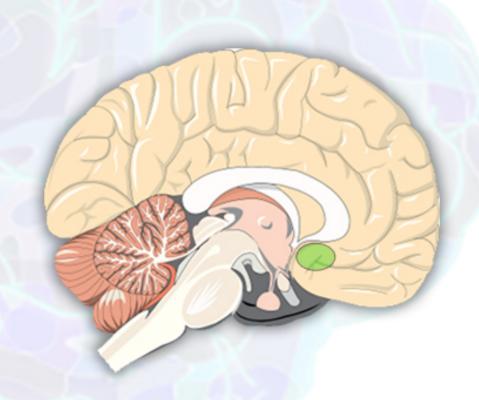
### **Limbic System**

#### **Nucleus Accumbens**

"Addiction Center"

Involved in reward, laughter, pleasure, addiction

Important component of the reward pathways of the brain



## **Reward Pathway**

Mesolimbic Pathway (Dopaminergic Pathway): Involved in reward, pleasure, addiction. Three areas:

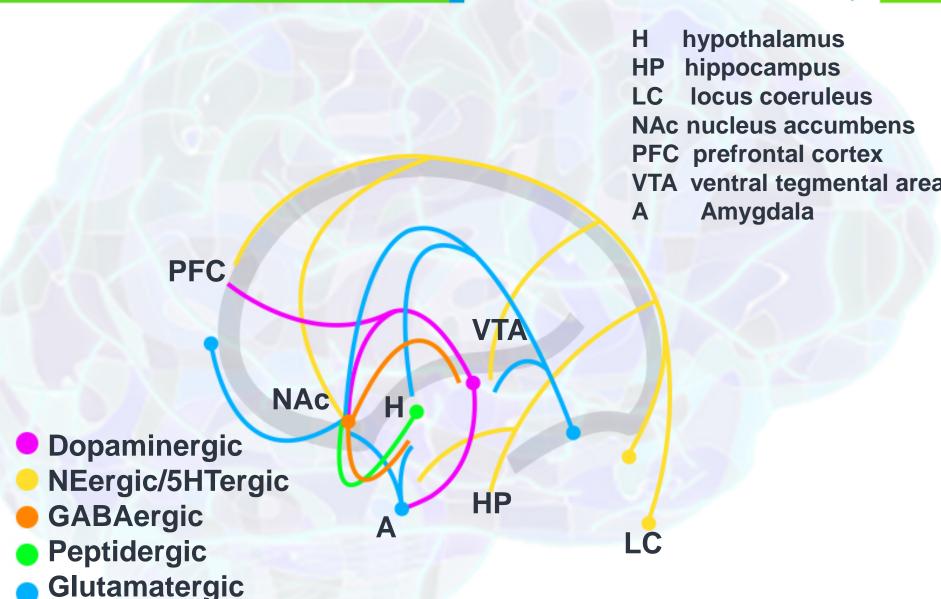
Ventral Tegmental Area releases dopamine for the pathway

Nucleus Accumbens (aka Ventral Striatum) involved in reward, laughter, pleasure, addiction

PFC appraises/interprets pleasurable stimuli

Other reward circuits are also involved in reward and pleasure, but also habit formation and motivation.

# Reward Pathway



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